

PATENT APPLN. NO. 10/695,460
RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

**PATENT
NON-FINAL**

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A graft grasping device comprising:
a graft grasping portion in the shape of a cylindrical tube having a lumen and a slit formed in a longitudinal direction of the cylindrical tube such that said grasping portion has a C-shaped cross section; and

a suction tube communicating with the lumen of the grasping portion for exerting a negative pressure in the lumen;

an inner wall of the graft grasping portion having a recessed portion which communicates with a lumen of the suction tube, the recessed portion being covered with a sheet having a plurality of pores, and a mesh sheet being provided in a space defined between the recessed portion and the sheet.

2. (original) A graft grasping device according to Claim 1, wherein said graft grasping portion has first and second longitudinal ends and the recessed portion is formed on the entire inner wall of the graft grafting portion excluding portions adjacent to said first and second longitudinal ends and portions adjacent to the slit.

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3. (original) A graft grasping device according to Claim 2, wherein at least one of said longitudinal ends of the graft grasping portion is formed obliquely with respect to the longitudinal direction of the graft grasping portion.

4. (original) A graft grasping device according to Claim 1, further comprising a means for gripping the device.

5. (original) A graft grasping device according to Claim 4, wherein a suction tube connection portion is provided on an outer wall of the graft grasping portion and is connected to the suction tube and the means for gripping the device is connected to said suction tube connection portion concentrically to the suction tube.

6. (original) A graft grasping device according to Claim 1, wherein a connector is provided at a proximal end of the suction tube.

7. (new) A graft grasping device comprising:
a graft grasping portion in the shape of a cylindrical tube having a lumen, a longitudinal axis, and a slit formed along the

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length of the tube parallel to the longitudinal axis of the tube such that said grasping portion has a C-shaped cross section perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the tube; and

a suction tube communicating with the lumen of the grasping portion for exerting a negative pressure in the lumen;

an inner wall of the graft grasping portion having a recessed portion which communicates with a lumen of the suction tube, the recessed portion being covered with a sheet having a plurality of pores, and a mesh sheet being provided in a space defined between the recessed portion and the sheet.